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The Curse of Gold.

The following is condensed from Tacitus Annals XVI:

During the reign of Neno, a Carthaginian named Cessilius Bassus came to Rome and caused a great excitement by stating that on his own estate in Carthage he had found a deep cavern containing a great quantity of gold in crude ingots such as were in use in the early ages of the world. He said also that Queen Dido when she fled from Tyre and founded Carthage, brought this gold and deposited it in the cave, that so much wealth might not prove the bane of the new colony; this treasure, he said was reserved to aid to the splendor of Nero's reign.

Nero and the Roman citizens believed this story, and began to make lavish expenditures, public and private, on the strength of it. After a time the Emperor sent his agents to transport the treasure to Rome; light galleys were fitted out, officered and manned by those selected for their fitness. In the meantime Rome was distracted by hope and fear, with doubt and expectation; no other subject was talked of. The common people believed everything, while men of reflection argued in a different manner. The expected treasure was the subject on which orators expatiated and poets exhausted their invention; the popular mind pictured the replacement of agriculture by mining, and believed that the Gods were working miracles to bless the reign of Nero.

Nero held the same opinion, fiction passed for truth, and nothing was too hyperbolic for the credulity of the prince. He launched out into greater profusion than ever. Deluded by his hopes, and sure of a supply for years to come he exhausted his treasury and began to anticipate his imaginary funds. "The expectation of enormous wealth made him the bubble of a madman, and impoverished the public."

Bassus returned to Carthage and directed the men sent from Rome, and many hired laborers were to dig in many places, but no gold or cave was found, and he committed suicide.

Senatus refers to this circumstance in few words: "He (Nero) was encouraged in all this wild and enormous profusion not only by the great revenue of the Empire, but by the sudden hopes given him of an immense hidden treasure which Queen Dido, upon her flight from Tyre had brought with her to Africa. This, a Roman knight pretended to assure him, was still hid in some deep caverns and might with a little labor be recovered." (Lives of the Twelve Caesars, Nero, chapter 31.)

A somewhat similar condition of things existed in California and Nevada for several years after the discovery of the Comstock mines, which shows that human nature is the same in all ages irrespective of dates.

Gold has but little intrinsic value, yet owing to its physical properties and the excessive labor required to obtain it, it is accepted as the standard, and it is the best known medium in which labor can be stored; the convenience of coin greatly facilitates the work of man. While I have found but little recorded in history in its favor, I am led by my studies to believe that this innocent, harmless metal, by an occult gift of nature as mysterious as magnetic attraction, has made history and influenced mankind to a remarkable degree.

In the study of this important subject two aspects must be considered, for while it cannot be denied that the thirst for gold and its influence when acquired, have been productive of much evil, on the other hand it has played an important part in the advancement of the world and the betterment of mankind. History shows that the desire to possess gold has led to many important recorded events, from the day that the Argonauts sailed from Greece to the present time; the foundation of the grand science of chemistry was laid by the alchemists whose only thought was to make gold. In search of gold, man has explored the most distant parts of the earth; to gather it when discovered, he has planted colonies and laid the founda-

tion of new nations. With the enormous capital so acquired he has established extensive manufactures which in turn have necessitated a proportionate commerce and the earth's population has been able for a time to live better than before.

The discovery and large production of gold in California, Australia and New Zealand stimulated commerce and manufactures more perhaps than any other event in modern history; and the successive discovery of the precious metal in British Columbia, South Africa, Alaska and elsewhere, has served to maintain conditions by the effect of which railroads have been built across the American continent, and many villages have become great cities, during one generation.

A transfer of population to new localities invariably follows a gold excitement. When old countries become over populous, discontent is engendered, which leads to dissension and war; in that condition the people become unhealthy and disease and famine result, by which surplus is naturally diminished; otherwise food sufficient for their support cannot be obtained; emigration is naturally slow, but stimulated by a gold excitement, colonists follow the gold seekers and the pressure is removed.

The area of fertile lands on the earth's surface is ample for the support of more than all the human beings who have lived at one time; but there must be some strong incentive to overcome the indolence of an over crowded community, and love of home inherent in man. In time, colonists become independent nations, which not only create new markets, but by sending their raw products assist the mother country. The laws of nature which in general act slowly may be in same degree accelerated by the use of the precious metals in the hands of man.

It is a singular fact that nature does at least part of her work by intermittent impulse, which may be seen exemplified in earthquakes, the flow of oil and gas wells, volcanic eruptions, the tides and waves of the sea, the circulation of blood in animals, and epidemics; animals and plants pass more or less of their time in sleep. This law seems to apply equally to gold excitement.

During long periods of uninterrupted prosperity, possibly only while gold is abundant, over production and speculation prevail, labor is diverted from agriculture, and artisans and traders congregate in commercial centers; this unnatural condition brings its own punishment, and a train of evils follows to which attention is beginning to be drawn. It is impossible that present inflated conditions can long continue. It is an undoubted fact that all excitements are followed by corresponding depression; there are many alarming symptoms of a serious reaction in the not far distant future which may lead to contraction, falling prices, and eventually return to conditions similar to those which existed before the golden age of the nineteenth century. While there is reason to believe that retrogression, already commenced, will be gradual, it may be safe to predict that the next half century will see as many important changes as the last.

The total gold product of the world, from the discovery of America by Columbus to the year 1900, is according to the report of the United States mint, in round numbers, nine thousand eight hundred and eleven million dollars.

Pure gold of this value would occupy space equal to 27,039 cubic feet, or a solid 33-foot cube, very nearly, which would weigh about 16,272 tons.

These figures which I trust are without error, show how small a quantity of gold has served to keep the world in activity, if not turmoil, for four centuries; but small as it is, the stored labor they represent is too great for the human mind to conceive; they seem to confirm my opinion that if a single, solid mass of metallic gold in magnitude equal to that of a medium sized dwelling house, should by any possibility be discovered on or near the earth's surface, it would have little if

any practical value, it would represent no stored labor and would be in excess of requirements.—Henry J. Hawks, in Mining and Engineering Review.

Trusts Cannot Stifle Competition.

It is too early yet to measure with any degree of accuracy the influence of the great consolidations upon the future of the American iron and steel industry. Two or three things, however, seem pretty clearly established—and these are contrary to popular notion. The first is that, in the larger lines, there is not, and cannot be, any monopoly. Competition will be comparatively free. The smaller manufacturers will multiply. If the big consolidations flourish, they will fatten. Their supply cannot be shut off. They can use the same materials and processes as their great rivals. Their management will be often of the same high order, for it will come from the men who have created and own the business. The small independent manufacturer is seldom over-capitalized, seldom mortgaged, and with light fixed charges, he will have a flexibility in the day of trial which will in a large degree offset the powerful advantages possessed by his huge rival in the ownership of raw materials, carrying facilities, the greatest plants, and unlimited working capital. Consolidations will never eliminate competition in the United States.—Archer Brown, in the Engineering Magazine.

General Mining News.

The Tombstone Mill and Mining company are still putting in machinery and are preparing for active work. The machinery and boilers now in place have all been started and tested, and everything was found to be perfect. It will probably take three months before everything is ready, and active work on a large scale will hardly commence before the new year, by which time railroad connection with the mine will have been made.

Report is that one of the biggest strikes ever made in the Bradshaw mountains has just been made in the Grey Eagle mine. A crosscut has exposed a body of ore seven feet wide, six feet of which gives an assay value of 3½ a ton, gold, and one foot from 75 to 200 per ton gold. The strike was made in a crosscut from a tunnel at a depth of 300 feet. The ore body is exposed for 700 feet. The mill near the property will be started up as soon as there is sufficient water. Geo. P. Harrington is general manager and Thos. Lee, superintendent.—Prescott Courier.

For about two months, says the El Paso News, a firm of mining men of El Paso has been negotiating for the purchase of the famous old Vulture mine of Arizona. One firm has recently left for Chicago and New York on this and other mining business, and the matter of the Vulture deal will soon be settled. It is known that this once famous producer contains vast quantities of ore that can be made to pay well by modern process of ore treatment and methods of mining. It is claimed that the vast quantities of tailings also contain a great deal of gold which can be cyanided at a profit.

Prospectors returning from the interior of Alaska have been bringing reports of large bodies of tin ore to be found there, and lately an expert sent to investigate has made an official report to the effect that the metal does occur in large deposits. This is welcome news to the tin plate manufacturers, as the world's production of the metal has been steadily decreasing for the last six years, while its utility is becoming more and more pronounced. The price of the metal has more than doubled in this time and grave apprehension has been felt that the present condition would grow worse rather than better. This new discovery is probably authentic and Alaska thus seems to have again demonstrated itself as one of our most valuable possessions. Tin, so far, has not been discovered in the United States proper, in paying quantities, while we are the greatest consumers of the metal.

The strike at Silver King district promises much for that camp. Mr. Jas. A. Nesbitt and J. A. Clark, who went out with the first rush, reached the ground first and secured the extension of the Ceaser claim, upon which the strike was made, they also made two other locations, and all of those that went out made locations. They report the strike as being on new ground, and on the surface and that it has been uncovered for a distance of about 50 feet, ore being plentifully sprinkled through the vein matter, which is about a foot wide. Assays from the same made here during the week, in which the sulphurets were not very plentiful gave returns from 776 oz to 4500 oz to the ton. The rock is undoubtedly very rich, and if it only goes down it will be a veritable bonanza.—Pioche Record.

The Black Diamond mine, situated four miles from Pearce, in this county, is attracting much attention from capitalists at the present time. Extensive development work has been done on this property, and now the result of this work is about to be obtained. There has been a large amount of machinery installed there of late, which is now ready to be put in operation, and there is a sufficient amount of ore to make the property more right along, and in a very short while pay dividends to the stockholders. The location of the mine is very pleasing, and the big level mesa spreading out before the mine makes a most beautiful location for a town-site. The owners of the mine have the greatest confidence in its richness and permanency, and this alone, besides the ore bodies in sight and the ore on the dumps, greatly impress many men who visit the mine. A party of capitalists who visited the Black Diamond mine this week spoke of it in the highest terms to a Miner reporter last evening.—Bisbee Miner.

The Las Vegas copper mines, near Coyame on the Rio Concho, were sold this week to Eastern capitalists for \$5,000. Mr. George E. Voorhees, Jr., of New Jersey, promoted the deal, says the Enterprise. The Las Vegas mines have been worked for many years and over 50,000 worth of ore has been shipped and there are at present between three and four thousand tons of ore on the dump. All the experts who have examined the property have given favorable reports, but the owners have never been able to work the mines on an extensive scale owing to the great distance from the railroad and the lack of capital to work the mines advantageously. The wagon freight from the mines to Chihuahua alone being 2½ per ton, besides 1½ gold per ton for freight from Chihuahua to Aguascalientes and treating the ore. Even with these exorbitant charges the mine has been worked at a profit by the former owners. It is the intention of the new company to install modern machinery, and eventually a smelter at the mines, and with the completion of the Orient road, which will pass within a distance of six miles of the mines, the property will no doubt become a large producer.

With the revival of the Tombstone district, new mines are being opened up and as an illustration of the possibilities of uncovering a meritorious property that may prove another of the class of famous producers of which Tombstone is noted, may be mentioned the recent sale of one half interest in the J. F. Walker mine south of town to T. S. Pulliam and J. J. Justice. The mine is located in a favorable mineral district, beyond the Emerald mine, with excellent surface indications and when Messrs. Pulliam and Justice became interested at once saw the making of a valuable property. Accordingly a good cash offer and 250 feet of work for a ½ interest was made and accepted by Mr. Walker. Work was at once outlined for the opening of the property and at its very outset a showing exceeding the most sanguine expectations of the owners was encountered. A ledge of four feet developed to one of double the width within a short distance and the assays show the ore to carry high values in silver and lead, the range of assays covering from 100 to 250 ozs. in silver and from

30 to 40 per cent in lead. The owners will at once crowd development work and ascertain the extent of their find while the indications point favorably to the opening of another rich producer in the Tombstone district.—Prospector.

Recently was noted herein as a passing fancy the midsummer dream of dwellers on the Hassayampa, Arizona, who proposed a mammoth cyaniding scheme, where the ordinary tank or vat would be ignored, as too trifling for contemplation, and the whole bed of the Hassayampa devoted to tank purposes by the emptying therein of six or eight carloads of potassium cyanide, after which nature would be left to take its course. As no glittering advertisement of the millions so easily made has so far been noted in Eastern papers, the scheme may not have materialized. But Baker City, Or., has evolved a plan formulating a 10,000,000 company to cyanide the sands of the Snake. It seems, however, satisfactory dredging and the homely burlap may be, the process of thus amassing wealth is too slow, and from advance prospectuses it is learned that great store of gold can be won by building "a gigantic dam, where all, or nearly all, of the water in the river may be taken out of the stream, cyanide added and again be sent on its journey over the gold-bearing bars in its bed. At a proper point below the point of diversion another dam will be built to back rock and the treasure-laden waters run through pipes to a level tract below, where they will be made to give up their treasures by means of the ordinary zinc precipitation tanks. The scheme is one of the most stupendous ever conceived, as tanks of requisite capacity would cover hundreds of acres of land, and the dams would necessarily be tremendous affairs." Well, rather! But the further statement is vouchsafed that "the possibility of saving all the gold contained in the bars of the Snake river, which are estimated by competent judges to contain from 10 to 15 cents per yard in infinitesimally small particles, makes the first cost of the plant pale into insignificance. It is estimated that the first year's run will net from 35,000,000 to 50,000,000." The most noticeable thing about these airy visions is that men who keep on saying such things get to believing them themselves after a while.—M. & S. Press.

The forthcoming November number of the New Idea Woman's Magazine will afford entertainment and profitable reading for women in all classes and conditions of life. It will be tinged, naturally, with the Thanksgiving idea, but will cover the ground of woman's needs. A novel feature will be the first of a series of bright letters from an Englishwoman's pen, under the caption of "The Journal of a London Woman." "Dressing the Bride" will set forth a new occupation for women, and there will be half a dozen good stories by the cleverest writers. "Autumn Novelties" will illustrate the newest departures in fancy work, and in "Good Housekeeping," excellent menus for Thanksgiving dinners will prove helpful and suggestive.

Do Good—It Pays.

A Chicago man has observed that, "Good deeds are better than real estate deeds—some of the latter are worthless. Act kindly and gently, show sympathy and lend a helping hand. You cannot possibly lose by it." Most men appreciate a kind word and encouragement more than substantial help. There are persons in this community who might truthfully say: "My good friend cheer up. A few doses of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy will rid you of your cold, and there is no danger whatever from pneumonia when you use that medicine. It always cures. I know it for it has helped me out many a time." Sold by H. H. Watkins, druggist.

Anson H. Smith has been appointed agent of the Western Iron Works, of Los Angeles, California, and is now prepared to figure with mine owners on the installation of gasoline engines, pumps and pump supplies.